

sponsoring is truly the stuff of legacy. It is landmark legislation that will stand as lasting testimony to the gentleman's foresight when it comes to enhancing the wildlife resources of our country.

I say this is landmark legislation because it provides for the first time an international wildlife refuge designation. This designation, as the gentleman has explained, would occur along an 18-mile length of the Detroit River between the cities of Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Canada.

In this regard, the portion on the U.S. side of this river has already been designated as an American Heritage River. In addition, the new international refuge proposed by this bill incorporates into its boundaries the existing Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge.

Obviously, fish and wildlife do not recognize political boundaries. This legislation recognizes that fact, and it does so in a fashion that vastly enhances the ecosystem of the Detroit River in both the United States and Canada for the benefit of not only the current but future generations of citizens of these respective countries.

Again, I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for his foresight in proposing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) on his work in developing this refuge, in one sense in an international way and in another sense setting a precedent that can be replicated countless numbers of times across the Nation where you can bring in an urban landscape and provide habitat for numerous waterfowl, birds, migrating neo-tropical birds and an abundance of marine life.

Mr. Speaker, I live off the Chesapeake Bay, and along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay there are numerous little tidal basins and estuaries. One of the waterfowl that rests there comes from Alaska, the tundra swan, with a beautiful whistling sound. But between Alaska and the Chesapeake Bay, where they spend their winter months, they need a number of places to stop to provide rest and food for themselves and their young. And now we can be assured that one of those places that those tundra swans will stop and rest along their thousands of miles of journey to the tidal basins of the Chesapeake Bay will be this refuge. So we in Maryland thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the staff for putting this together.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1230, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the three bills just considered, H. Con. Res. 270, H.R. 1913, and H.R. 1230.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 294) expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office and its employees for enabling the House to continue its work while the House office buildings were closed due to the presence of Anthrax.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 294

Whereas the House of Representatives recently found it necessary to close its office buildings to Members, staff, and the public due to the presence of Anthrax;

Whereas the Comptroller General made an offer to the House of Representatives to make the General Accounting Office's building and equipment available to the Members and staff of the House of Representatives during the period in which the House office buildings were closed, an offer the House gratefully accepted;

Whereas the House's subsequent temporary use of General Accounting Office workspaces, telephones, computers, and other equipment imposed an inconvenience on the employees of the Office, who graciously vacated their worksites; and

Whereas the sacrifices made by employees of the General Accounting Office during this period enabled the House of Representatives to continue its legislative work on behalf of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives expresses its gratitude to the General Accounting Office for accommodating the House during the recent closure of the House office buildings, and sincerely thanks the hundreds of General Accounting Office employees who generously vacated their workspaces and otherwise helped to make it possible for the work of the House to continue during this period.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this

resolution to the Comptroller General of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise here today on behalf of my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), of the Committee on House Administration for consideration of H. Res. 294. This resolution expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office and its employees for enabling the House to continue its work while the House office buildings were closed due to the presence of anthrax.

Mr. Speaker, I want the citizens of the United States to know that later on representatives on behalf of all employees of the GAO will be present in the Capitol in Statuary Hall so that we may speak with them and personally express our gratitude.

On October 18, 2001, the House office buildings closed their doors; and we arrived at the GAO on October 22, 2001. The General Accounting Office graciously accommodated Members and their staff through November 5, 2001. With their help, use of phones and work space, we were able to continue our legislative work on behalf of the United States.

I want to personally thank the GAO for the logistical support they provided to the United States House of Representatives while we occupied two floors of their agency. The professionalism and can-do attitude they exhibited is a credit to the agency. The GAO's hard work made a difficult situation manageable, and it will be long remembered.

All facets of the government working together for the common good will only overcome the trying times that face this Nation.

The GAO's efforts demonstrated that resolve. The GAO's partnership throughout this process not only proves their loyalty to this great Nation but also their kindness as employees and as an agency.

Mr. Speaker, when this country was formed, from the first veteran who fought to make this the greatest democracy ever on planet Earth, they envisioned that their efforts would always continue and that there would be an energetic give and take on the floor of the House and the Senate. And let me just say that during this trying time, when it was difficult for employees of the House and the staff and the Members, we got through it by allowing this floor to be able to continue and by our employees, our staff, of the House being able to communicate with